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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source and ground of all truth, give our Senators the grace of reflection that will unite the scattered forces of their souls. May life's frenetic pace not hinder them from thinking about its meaning and its end. Grant that Your truth will take root within their souls, providing them with wisdom to know when to abstain and when to persevere. As they read Your sacred Scriptures, may they feel the stirring of Your Holy Spirit.

Lord, bless all human hearts that today are lifted up to You. Accept their prayers and praise, as You guide them on the road that leads to eternal life. We pray in Your merciful Name.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

> U.S. SENATE, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY. President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion. The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDILLE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30. Senators during that period of time will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 we have two rollcall votes, the first on the confirmation of the Krause circuit court judge and the next will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2562

I am told S. 2562 is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 2562) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring back jobs to America.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

WASTING TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a lot of people within the sound of my voice will not understand what I speak about, which is having an emergency brake or a parking brake on a car. It used to be standard procedure. People would pull out the emergency brake, and 99 percent of the time people would remember to release it before they took off, but sometimes people would forget and that car would still go forward, but it didn't go forward very well. In fact, it would start smoking-"Oh, I forgot to turn that off."

So emergency brakes, what do they have to do with us in the Senate? What it has to do with us is that it appears the Republicans in the Senate have intentionally left on the emergency brake. For everything we try to do, it is similar to when we used to drive a car and have the emergency brake on. It doesn't move right. It moves very slowly.

Throughout President Obama's time in office, the Republican leadership in the Senate has done its best to keep the brakes engaged, slowing any effort to legislate on even the most bipartisan bills. We should be passing legislation that strengthens our economy and protects working families instead of wasting hundreds of hours-hundreds of hours—as we struggle to perform one of our most basic duties, confirming Presidential nominees.

Last year, in response to unprecedented-I repeat, unprecedented-Republican obstruction, the Senate was forced to change its rules to ensure that some of the President's nominees received the up-or-down vote they deserve. I am so happy that change was made. It has allowed the Senate to make substantial progress on one of its primary functions. Positions that were once vacant for months—even years are now staffed with qualified and competent public servants.

In spite of our having changed the rules, the Republicans are still continuing to try to slow everything down.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

